to release these victims along with others imprisoned on the basis of religious discrimination.

The combined effort of the United States Congress and the Department of State is only furthered by today's legislation. Today we reach out to the international community to immediately condemn Iran's continued violation of human rights and to demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion. I strongly believe that the United States and the world should stand together against this continued and blatant violation of the International Covenant on Human Rights.

DR. PEDRO CELIS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished con-

stituent and, according to Hispanic Business Magazine, a man considered one of the most influential Hispanic Americans in the entire nation

Dr. Pedro Celis, a celebrated Microsoft engineer and an engaged and informed individual living in my congressional district, was honored earlier this month as one of 100 influential Hispanic Americans. Alongside well known Hispanic Americans such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, Dr. Celis is one of the most respected Hispanic American trailblazers in our great nation.

Born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico, Dr. Celis graduated from Monterrey Institute of Technology and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Aside from being a vital and innovative part of Microsoft's SQL Server Group, Dr. Celis served on President George W. Bush's Presidential Information Technology Advisory Committee. Further, Dr. Celis has served on a number of civic-minded organizations such as the Washington

State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Families Northwest, Hispanic Alliance for Progress and many more. It is no surprise, then, that Dr. Celis has been a trusted advisor on many issues since I was elected to serve in this body.

I want to thank Dr. Celis for his spirit of service and innovation, his commitment to community and family and his outstanding representation of Hispanic Americans. I am so proud Dr. Celis has taken his rightful place among the most influential Hispanic Americans in the nation, I encourage him to continue using his intellect and perspective to drive America in the right direction, and on behalf of the House of Representatives, congratulate him on this prestigious recognition.